

green. They are oval, and rarely over 3 inches long. The 'chaugua' is usually boiled with meat, or it forms one of the ingredients of a vegetable stew. The plant thrives in light soil with plenty of moisture." (Popenoe.)

Dr. Shantz's Explorations in Africa.

An example of the exploration and research for new plants available for cultivation in this country is furnished by the recent 9,000-mile exploring trip taken by Dr. H. L. Shantz, agricultural explorer, botanist of this Office, with the Smithsonian African Exploration. The principal purpose of Dr. Shantz's trip was to study the native agriculture with an eye for new fruits, nut plants, forage crops (especially those adapted to our South and West), new sorghums, and especially wild sorghum grasses of types similar to Sudan grass, (*Holcus sorghum sudanensis*) which has proved such an important forage crop in the semi-arid districts of the western part of the United States that \$10,000,000 worth of it was grown last year.

The party, which left New York, July 16, 1919, sailed directly to the Cape Verde Islands off the coast of Africa, and from there to Cape Town, where they arrived August 13. From there the journey of nearly 9,000 miles was made almost entirely through the heart of Africa, sometimes 1,000 miles inland, with occasional expeditions to the coast for observations of Zanzibar and other islands, and at Lourenzo Marques and Beira.

The expedition has given to the Department of Agriculture a rather intimate knowledge of agriculture, not only of the whites but of the native tribes, of the regions visited. Many of the practices there observed will doubtless prove helpful in connection with practice in this country. Dr. Shantz also formed the acquaintance of many agriculturists and men in various sections of the Dark Continent who can in the future be useful to the Department by sending in plants which are desirable and which could not otherwise be secured. The direct tangible results consist of seeds or living material of more than 1,600 different species or varieties of plants, many of which had not been previously imported into the United States, and from which it is only reasonable to suppose some important grain, forage, or fruit crops may be developed.

Ground for such belief is furnished by past records,